

TO: Kate Thunstrom- City Administrator
FROM: Dave Schmidt- Fire Chief
SUBJECT: Joint Powers Agreement- Shared Fire Protection
DATE: August 25, 2025

OVERVIEW:

Over the past three years, the Cities of St. Francis and Bethel have worked collaboratively to identify a long-term solution for providing fire protection services to their communities. The shared goals of this effort have been to ensure that fire services are delivered in an efficient and effective manner while also creating organizational stability for the future.

A working group was established to guide this process and has met regularly throughout this time. The group has included representatives from city leadership, fire department personnel, elected officials, the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office, and a professional consultant from Triad Paradigm. Together, the group developed a framework for a sustainable partnership model.

The product of this collaborative effort is the proposed Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). The JPA establishes the structure for forming a fire district, which will provide a unified approach to delivering fire protection services for both communities. By creating this district, St. Francis and Bethel will be better positioned to meet the needs of residents, support the fire service, and plan responsibly for the future.

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

Discussion and direction to staff

BUDGET IMPLICATION:

None

Attachments:

- Joint Powers Agreement- Draft